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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting of the Society. The annual meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering Societies' Hall, No. 29 West 39th Street, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1914, at 8.30 P. M.

Vice-President Greenough in the Chair.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Annual Report of the Council was read by Vice-President Greenough:

January 15, 1914.

To the Fellows of the American Geographical Society:

In presenting their report for the year 1913 the Council take occasion to express their appreciation of the consistent interest and support afforded by all the members of the Society.

The year has been one of continuous progress and usefulness along the lines to which the Society is devoted as will appear by the details hereinafter submitted. Broadly speaking, the Society aims to afford a center of interest and sources of knowledge in all forms of geographical pursuit and to enlist a membership of students, scholars and others interested in the science. To this end its efforts embrace:

1. The maintenance of a research library of books and maps, with a convenient building for their keeping, acquisition and use.
2. The monthly publication in the Society *Bulletin* of matters of geographical progress or interest throughout the world.
3. A series of lectures by eminent speakers on current events and discoveries.
4. Correspondence and exchange of publications with all the leading organizations of a similar purpose throughout the world.
5. The award of suitable medals in recognition of distinguished achievement in geographical endeavor.
6. The encouragement and assistance of such projects of exploration and research as seem likely to add to geographical knowledge.

In pursuance of the above general scheme of activity the following summaries are presented:

The number of Fellows of the Society on December 31 was 1185, of which number 371 are Life Fellows.

The accessions to the library during the year numbered 1523 books and 5485 pamphlets, and 6731 maps. The facilities of the new building for reading and study are thought to be of the latest standard.

The ambition of the Society is to accumulate a library of research for geographical students which shall be at least equal to anything of the kind in America. Great progress has been made already and rapid advance in the future seems to be assured.

The monthly *Bulletin* published by the Society is maintained at a high level and furnishes a comprehensive record of geographical literature and endeavor throughout the world. The index to the volume and the bibliography have proved especially valuable to students.

The Society is in direct correspondence or exchange with 678 societies and governmental bureaus.

The meetings of the Society during the winter season have been increased in number by the addition of an inter-monthly meeting and have been largely attended by our members and much appreciated as instructive and interesting. Addresses have been made by Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, George B. Dexter, Albert B. Osborne, Ellsworth Huntington, Ellen Churchill Semple, Emery C. Kolb, Vahan Cardashian, Arthur Stanley Riggs, Hiram Bingham, the Rev. Hudson Stuck, Frederick I. Monsen.

The Charles P. Daly Medal was awarded to Alfred Hulse Brooks in recognition of the value of his work in the exploration and mapping of Alaska.

On March 19th, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of David Livingstone, the Hispanic Society of America placed with our Society a fund for the endowment of a medal to be called the David Livingstone Centenary Medal, to be awarded by the American Geographical Society from time to time to persons who may distinguish themselves in the field of geographical research or achievement in the southern hemisphere. Designs for this medal are now being considered.

The Society was able to assist materially in two important exploring expeditions, one under Donald B. MacMillan in search for and exploration near Crocker Land in which the Society was associated with the American Museum of Natural History; and another directed by Professor Isaiah Bowman of Yale University for the purpose of completing a programme of work in the Central Andes supplementing previous similar exploration in the more northerly Andean region. A summary of the results of the Bowman expedition will be presented in the March number of the Society's *Bulletin*.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment of more intimate relations with the Association of American Geographers which it is hoped will be helpful to each and promote the efficiency of both. The publications of that Association will be sent to our members, and our publications will be sent to their members as issued. It is in contemplation to have, annually, a joint meeting of the two organizations by which interest in scientific geography may be promoted and encouraged. The establishment of a relation of mutual interest and service can hardly fail to be beneficial to both societies.

The Society has held in its building a number of exhibitions of photographs, maps and geographical memorabilia which have attracted a satisfactory attendance of our members and the public.

The policy was adopted of keeping the Society's building and collections open during the summer months instead of closing in the month of August as heretofore. The experiment has been a success, meeting the convenience of the staff and of the public, and this course will be pursued until further notice.

For the condition of the finances reference is respectfully made to the report of the Treasurer. Suffice it to say here that the receipts of the year from dues, interest and donations equalled the expenditure, and the invested fund remains unchanged.

In conclusion the Council feels justified in the opinion that never before was the Society in as good condition as at present for fulfilling the objects for which it exists. All the members of its working staff have performed their duties with zeal and efficiency and constant evidences of recognition are received from outside observers as well as from members of the Council.

JOHN GREENOUGH,
Chairman of the Council.

PAUL TUCKERMAN,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

In the absence of the Treasurer, Henry Parish, Jr., his report for the year 1913 was read by Mr. Chandler Robbins as follows:

GENERAL ACCOUNT

The Treasurer respectfully reports:	
On January 1st, 1913, there was on hand a balance of	\$3,077.02
(of which was accumulation of uninvested Capital	
\$1,250).	
During the year there have been received for Fellowship	
Dues, Sales of Publications, Interest on Investments	
and Donations	\$49,179.29
A legacy from the Estate of Francis M. Bacon.....	1,000.00
	<u>50,179.29</u>
Total	\$53,256.31

There have been expended for Salaries, Meetings, Library, Publications, House Expenses, Insurance, Postage, &c.	42,445.40
For exploration	7,000.00
Reinvested at interest.....	1,250.00
Leaving a balance on hand Dec. 31, 1913.	50,695.40
\$1,000 of which is Capital awaiting investment.	\$2,560.91

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Special Committee appointed November 20, 1913, to nominate and invite suitable persons to fill vacancies which will occur in the offices of the Society at the date of its annual meeting in January, 1914, respectfully report that they recommend the election of the following gentlemen to the offices designated:

	FOR TERM EXPIRING
Vice-President.....	JOHN GREENOUGH 1917
Domestic Corresponding Secretary..	ARCHIBALD D. RUSSELL.. 1917
Treasurer.....	HENRY PARISH, JR..... 1915
Councillors.....	JAMES B. FORD..... } OTTO H. KAHN..... } GRENVILLE KANE } CHARLES H. TWEED..... } MADISON GRANT } 1917
[SIGNED]	CHANDLER ROBBINS, L. HOLBROOK, PAUL TUCKERMAN, <i>Committee.</i>

The vote of the Society was unanimously in favor of the persons recommended by the Council and they were declared duly elected.

MR. WILLIAM CHURCHILL ELECTED CORRESPONDING MEMBER

On the recommendation of the Council, the Society elected Mr. William Churchill, of New York City, Corresponding Member. Mr. Churchill has written many monographs on ethnological and philological topics and has for some years contributed to the general and critical departments of the Society's *Bulletin*.

The following persons, recommended by the Council, were elected to Fellowship:

Florentino Telles de Menezes of Aracaju, Brazil,	Algernon T. Burr, C. S. Hammond,
Albert Bushnell Hart, Cambridge, Mass.	John Addams Linn, T. Gilbert Pearson,
Charles R. Keyes, Des Moines, Iowa, and of this city,	Lynde Selden.

At the conclusion of the business session, Frederic Dean, A.M. LL.B., addressed the Society on "Porto Rico, Our West Indian Outpost." He gave a vivid impression of the great population, resources and attractions of the island. Many lantern views were shown.

A regular meeting of the Society was also held on Tuesday evening, December 23, 1913, at the Engineering Societies' Hall. Vice-President Greenough in the Chair. The following persons, 16 in all, recommended by the Council, were elected to Fellowship:

John Dunbar Adams, Henry B. Adriance, Robert Low Bacon, Edward P. Beckwith, Douglas W. Dunn, F. Herbert Filley, R. Jay Flick, Arthur R. Gray,	Edward Stuart Hale, Miss Ida H. Ogilvie, Solomon G. Rosenbaum, George J. Sager, Louis E. Schwab, Edward Elwell Spafford, Arthur Clifford Veatch, Philipp W. Zellenka.
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Mr. Frederick I. Monsen then addressed the Society on "Mexico and Her People," with lantern illustrations.

The Index for 1913. The index to Volume XLV of the *Bulletin* is now being printed and will be sent to our Fellows and exchanges as soon as it is off the press. Covering more than 100 pages, it embraces the important geographical literature and map products of the past year. So useful an aid to geographers and to those interested in any phase of geographical study should be accessible in the public libraries and a part of the reference material of all workers in our field. A limited number of copies will be on sale at the office of this Society. Price 50 cents postpaid.

The late Townsend Harris. The Society is informed by Mr. William Elliot Griffis, the lecturer and author, that the book, "Townsend Harris, First American Envoy in Japan," has been translated into Japanese and issued in an attractive volume, which sells in Japan at sixty-five cents in our money, and is therefore calculated for general reading. Mr. Harris was, at one time, President of the Board of Education in New York City. He was elected a Fellow of the American Geographical Society in 1868 and became Foreign Corresponding Secretary of the Council in 1870.

NORTH AMERICA

Association of American Geographers. The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Association was held at Princeton on January 1 and 2, 1914. About thirty-five members were present and the attendance of members and non-members ranged from twenty-five to sixty. Thirty-six titles appeared in the programme and twenty-eight were read. It was one of the most enjoyable meetings the Association has held.

The officers nominated for 1914 were elected and the full Council for the year is as follows:

President, Albert Perry Brigham; First Vice-President, Charles R. Dryer; Second Vice-President, C. F. Marbut; Secretary, Isaiah Bowman; Treasurer, François E. Matthes; Editor, Richard E. Dodge.

Councillors: Lawrence Martin, Robert DeC. Ward, Alfred H. Brooks.

The nominating committee for officers for 1915 consists of C. F. Marbut, Chairman, R. H. Whitbeck, H. H. Barrows.

In his report on the meeting Secretary Bowman says:

"The Round-Table Conference, conducted by Alfred H. Brooks, was one of the most successful ever held by the Association. A remarkable degree of unanimity was shown concerning not only the plan of cooperation between the Association and the American Geographical Society, but also concerning the best means for promoting geographical research. It was the general opinion of the members that the proposed plan would tend toward a better organization of effort and a higher standard of scholarship. That part of the plan relating to a joint meeting in New York with the American Geographical Society had a most cordial reception; about four-fifths of the members present agreed to attend the first joint meeting."

At a business meeting on January 2, the plan of cooperation between the Association and the American Geographical Society was unanimously adopted. In carrying out the provision relating to the administration of a joint research fund the Council appointed the following research committee:

Alfred H. Brooks, Chairman (term expires December, 1917); Herbert E. Gregory (term expires December, 1916); Robert DeC. Ward (term expires December, 1915).

The next annual meeting will be held west of Pittsburgh at some place not yet decided upon.

The following papers were read:

H. G. Bryant (President's Address.) Government Agencies and Geography in the United States.

R. H. Whitbeck. A Geographical Study of Nova Scotia.

W. M. Davis. The Mission Range, Montana.

J. Russell Smith. The Tree as a Factor in Man's Adjustment to the Arid Environment.

R. DeC. Ward. The Weather Element in American Climate.

Howard Palmer (Introduced by W. L. G. Joerg). Glacial Features of the Selkirks.

Oliver L. Fassig. The Frostless Period in Maryland and Delaware.

Roy C. Andrews (Introduced by Ellsworth Huntington). Exploration in Northern Korea.

Leon Dominian. Geographical Influences in the Delimitation of Spheres of Foreign Interests in Asia Minor.

Lawrence Martin. Glaciers and International Boundaries.

F. E. Matthes. Lessons in Glacial Erosion from the Yosemite Region.

Robert M. Brown. The Effects of Levees on the Height of River Beds. N. M. Fenneman. Definition and Boundaries of Physiographic Provinces in the United States.

Mark Jefferson. The Growth of American Cities.

W. L. G. Joerg. The Subdivision of North America into Natural Regions.

O. E. Baker (Introduced by C. F. Marbut). A Proposed Atlas of American Agriculture.

Frank M. Chapman (Introduced by Ellsworth Huntington). The Distribution of Life in Colombia.

Charles F. Brooks (Introduced by R. DeC. Ward). The Snowfall About the Great Lakes.

William Libbey. A Subject Catalogue of Geographical Periodicals.

Roland M. Harper. The Coniferous Forests of Eastern North America.

Richard E. Dodge. Geography Teaching in Normal Schools.

C. J. Kullmer (Introduced by Ellsworth Huntington). Storm Frequency in the United States and Europe.

Henryk Arctowski. The Pleionian Variations of Temperature: The Brachypleions of Arequipa: Macroleionian Variations in the United States.

Ellsworth Huntington. Climate and Human Efficiency.

R. H. Whitbeck. Some Economic Aspects of Glaciation in Wisconsin.

Frank Carney. A Study of the Programs of this Association, 1904. 1912.

Isaiah Bowman. The First Decade.

Alfred H. Brooks. Round-Table Conference.

Derivation and Probable Place of Origin of the North American Indian. In a paper with this title read by Dr. Aleš Hrdlička at the International Congress of Americanists, London, 1912 (*Proceedings of the 18th Session*, London, 1913) he summarizes his conclusions as follows: "The American natives represent in the main a single stem or strain of people, one homotype; this stem is identical with that of the yellow-brown races of Asia and Polynesia; and the main immigration of the Americans has taken place, in the main at least, gradually and by the northeastern route in the earlier part of the recent period, after man had reached a relatively high stage of physical development and multiple secondary differentiations. The immigration, in all probability, was a dribbling and prolonged overflow, likely due to pressure from behind or want, and a search for better hunting and fishing grounds in the direction where no resistance of man as yet existed. This was followed by multiplication, spread, and numerous minor differentiations of the people on the new, vast, and environmentally highly varied continent, by rapid differentiation of language due to isolation and other natural conditions, and by the development, on the basis of what was transported, of more or less localized American cultures. It is also probable that the western coast of America, within the last 2,000 years, was on more than one occasion reached by small parties of Polynesians, and that the eastern coast was similarly reached by small groups of whites, and that such parties may have locally influenced the culture of the Americans; but such accretions have nowhere, as far as we know to-day, modified the native population."

Improving Yosemite Park. Secretary Lane of the Interior Department, Washington, according to *American Forestry* (Vol. 19, 1913, No. 12, p. 951), has appointed an Advisory Commission looking to the improvement of the Yosemite National Park, Cal. The Commission, which consists of Ex-Mayor James D. Phelan of San Francisco, Mr. Noah Daniels, landscape gardener, Mr. Leslie Symmes, Civil Engineer, and Major W. T. Littlebrant, acting superintendent of the park, will advise with the Secretary in matters relating to the park, its improvement, its accessibility to tourists, etc.

Return of the "Carnegie." The magnetic survey vessel *Carnegie* has returned to Brooklyn, thus completing the circumnavigation cruise begun

in June, 1910, and covering a distance of over 70,000 miles. The vessel has been throughout under the command of W. J. Peters, and her work has been to determine the magnetic elements at sea in fulfillment of the plan of a general magnetic survey of the globe under the direction of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. (*Science*, No. 991, Vol. 38, 1913, p. 922).

Ohio Valley Flood of 1913. An official report of the Ohio Valley Flood of March-April, 1913, has been issued by the U. S. Geological Survey (The Ohio Valley Flood of March-April, 1913. A. H. Horton and H. J. Jackson, *Water Supply Paper 334*, Washington, 1913). The pamphlet contains a good summary of the events preceding, during and subsequent to the flood but its contribution is mainly in the tabulated reports from a large number of stations over the entire flooded area and in the hydrographs of many localities along various streams. In order that the reader may make comparisons, the authors have included full accounts of the 1907 and the 1884 floods in the districts, and have tabulated the data of all floods since 1859. Some attempt is made to estimate the damage done by the 1913 flood. In 206 towns there was a loss of 415 lives, 60,043 buildings were flooded, 419 bridges destroyed and the property loss amounted to over \$180,000,000. This is actual damage and does not include losses due to suspension of business, decreased confidence and general depression. The report considers the possibility of a flood on the Ohio in conjunction with floods on the upper Mississippi and the Missouri and urges the government, in the face of this possibility, to establish a complete system of river control.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Yukon River. The late Mr. William Ogilvie in his book "Early Days on the Yukon," just published, has these general remarks on the Yukon:

"The Yukon River is unique among rivers, in that it rises within fifteen miles of tidal waters in the Dyea Inlet on the Pacific coast, whence it flows in a north-westerly direction nearly 1,000 miles, just crossing the Arctic Circle, where it turns south-west through the middle of Alaska, and then flows more than 1,200 miles until it reaches the ocean within sight of which it rose; for we may properly call Bering Sea a part of the Pacific Ocean. This grand stream is also surprising in the length of navigation it gives in proportion to its total length, for less than fifteen miles north from where its tiniest streamlets trickle from the summit of Dyea Pass lies Lake Bennett, whose head is the beginning of steamboat navigation on this noble stream. From the starting-point of those same streamlets one can look down on other streamlets beginning their steep descent of the Dyea Pass to the waters of the wide Pacific, only as far away on the south as Bennett is on the north.

"From the head of Lake Bennett to Bering Sea is about 2,500 miles by the course of the river, and all this length, with the exception of three and a half miles at the Cañon and Rapids, is navigable; thus all its length, except the first fifteen steep miles down the slope of its source and the three and a half at the Cañon, is navigable. Can this be said of any other river in the world?"

Progress of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific has now been completed to 303 miles east of Prince Rupert, B. C., and trains are in operation as far as mile 301 Rose Lake. Steel has been laid to mile 1240 west of Winnipeg, or 145 miles west of Tête Jaune. Trains are now running daily to Second Crossing of the Fraser River at mile 1190 west of Winnipeg.

Altitude and Population of Mexican Cities. A list of the more important cities of Mexico and their elevation above sea level has been compiled by Dr. E. Wittich (*Memorias y Rivista de la Sociedad "Antonio Alzate,"* Vol. 31, p. 337, 1912). The three cities in Mexico with a population over 100,000 inhabitants are the City of Mexico, population 470,659, altitude 7,421 feet; Guadalajara, population 118,799, altitude 5,118 feet and Puebla, population 101,244, altitude 7,093 feet. Of the twenty-two cities whose population ranges between 100,000 and 20,000, fourteen lie at an altitude exceeding 4,921 feet and only four are below 3,937 feet. Out of a list of twenty-seven cities ranging between 10,000 and 20,000 inhabitants, thirteen are built at elevations over 3,280 feet.

Of fifty-two cities having a population of over 10,000, twelve are situated

at an altitude above 2,000 meters (6561.80 feet), while thirty-four lie above 3,280 feet. The aggregate population of these thirty-four cities is approximately 1,750,000; while the remaining cities lying below 3,280 feet have a total population of about 350,000.

The highest Mexican town is the mining town of Real del Monte in the State of Hidalgo. Its population is 10,008, its altitude 8,927 feet. Toluca comes next at 8,819 feet, population 31,247. Zacatecas, population 25,905, follows at an altitude of 8,169 feet. Then come Pachuca, population 38,620, altitude 8,025 feet; Mixcoac, population 18,285, elevation 7,792 feet; Tacubaya, population 35,830, elevation 7,622 feet; and Guanajuato, population 35,147, elevation 6,706 feet.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Population of Costa Rica. Vol. XVI of "The Annuario Estadistico" of the Republic of Costa Rica contains a report of the chief of the Demographic Section in which the population of the republic is given as 399,424 on Dec. 31, 1912. The distribution of population among the provinces is: San José 124,109, Alajuela 95,382, Cartago 61,439, Heredia 43,304, Guanacaste 34,952, Puntarenas 20,591, Limón 19,647.

SOUTH AMERICA

Standard Time Adopted in Brazil. The American Ambassador at Rio de Janeiro reports that standard time referred to the meridian of Greenwich has been adopted in Brazil and became effective on January 1, 1914. The Republic has been divided into four standard time zones. The first zone includes the archipelago of Fernando Noronha and the Island of Trinidad in which the standard time is two hours earlier than that of Greenwich. The second zone includes the whole sea coast of Brazil and in this zone the standard time is three hours earlier than at Greenwich. Two other zones in which the time is four and five hours earlier than at Greenwich cover the interior and western portions of the country. (*Hydrogr. Bull.*, Jan. 7, 1914, Washington, D. C.)

AFRICA

Change of Climate in East Africa. In his account of the interior basin region of northern German East Africa (*Das Hochland der Riesenkrater*, Teil II, Kapitel 16, p. 179) Dr. Fritz Jaeger cites various facts leading to the conclusion that a moister climate prevailed in the recent past. The difference may have been due to greater rainfall or to lower temperature and diminished evaporation. The greater mountains, such as Kilimanjaro and Ruwenzori, show by their moraines that the glaciers formerly descended much lower than now. Very many observations show that the lakes of the regions were once at higher stands. Several examples are cited and other observers are quoted. In various places, boulders appear at such heights above valley bottoms that they could not have been deposited under present conditions. Gorge-making has taken place on mountain slopes where water scarcely flows at the present time. The origin of some alluvial gravels also betokens moister climate, as in places where the clays were deposited in swamps, while to-day grass steppes occupy the valley bottoms. Further evidence is found in the distribution of plant life. Isolated patches of forest in East Africa show strong relationship with the forests of Central and West Africa and are believed to be remnants of a more widely distributed forest flora. Of the same meaning is the similarity of high mountain floras in widely separated localities. While conceding that some of the suggested evidence may call for further investigation, the author regards the phenomena of the moraines, the lake beaches and the distribution of plants, as fully conclusive.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

ASIA

Settlement of the Turco-Persian Boundary Contest. The signing of the Constantinople protocol of November 17, 1913, by the Grand Vizir and the ambassadors of Great Britain, Russia and Persia ended the controversy between the Turkish and Persian governments regarding their boundary line.

According to *Asie Française* (November, 1913, p. 488), the contested zones of Bariga, Torgever, Desht, Mørgever, Vahuu and Zerivan, all in the northern section of the boundary zone are definitely assigned to Persia. At the southern end of the frontier, the waters of Shott-el-Arab with most of their islands remain under Turkish sovereignty. Persia acquires Muhalla and six of its island administrative dependencies. Persian jurisdiction over Mohammerah is confirmed without reservations. A commission consisting of British, Russian, Turkish and Persian delegates will start early in 1914 to survey the region. It is expected that the work will require at least eighteen months. The Russian and British commissioners are to act as umpires in the event of any divergence arising between the Turkish and Persian representatives.

The Languages of Borneo. The interest of the Rajah of Sarawak in the affairs of his dominion, has provided the funds whereby the Sarawak Museum has been enabled to begin the publication of its journal. The fourth number of that publication preserves for the students of the life of central Indonesia a very considerable record of speech in "The Languages of Borneo" by Sidney H. Ray. This valuable volume is so arranged as to coordinate with Mr. Ray's great report on the philology of the Cambridge expedition to Torres Straits, the vocabulary containing the same elements and in the same order. Linguistic science has recently become particularly interested in the obscurer languages of this area because of the immediate promise that they provide an approach to a new philology of primitive speech. Mr. Ray's contributions of such data will do good service in their presentation of necessary material.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

POLAR

ANTARCTIC

Exploration of King Edward VII Land. Mr. J. Foster Stackhouse is endeavoring to organize an expedition with the object of charting the coast of King Edward VII Land. It is proposed to leave England in August, 1914, and proceeding south by way of the Falkland Islands, to enter the ice in about 70° S., 100° W. It is hoped that this position will be reached by the end of December, and the vessel will proceed as far south as possible while the summer lasts. If it be practicable to make the land, Mr. Stackhouse proposes to winter in some convenient harbor; otherwise it will be necessary to winter in the pack and proceed to the west during the following summer, before the end of which it is hoped that the homeward voyage will be begun. If necessary, however, Mr. Stackhouse proposes to spend a second winter in the ice, and do further work during the following summer. It is stated that a strong staff of scientists will be carried and the vessel selected fully equipped for scientific research. The total cost of the expedition is estimated at £40,000. (*Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 42, 1913, No. 6, p. 575.)

ARCTIC

By Sea to the Yenisei River. Captain Joseph Wiggins proved, in 1875, the possibility of opening a commercial sea route from the Atlantic and through the Kara Sea to the Yenisei River, Siberia. Last year a company, backed by British, Russian and Norwegian capital and managed by Dr. Jonas Lied of Norway, chartered the steamship *Correct*, sent her with a mixed cargo to Siberia through the Kara Sea and brought home a cargo of Siberian produce which was discharged at London. Dr. Nansen made this journey to the Yenisei. In a lecture before the Imperial Geographical Society of St. Petersburg, he endorsed Captain Wiggins and his followers as to the possibilities of the route but added that more than one voyage during the season should not be undertaken until we know more about the ice conditions in the Kara Sea. Although navigation is nominally practicable during July, August and September there seems to be no certainty of getting through the ice except towards the end of the period. He approved of the wireless stations that have been opened at the straits leading into the Kara Sea and on the Yamal Peninsula but believed that a fourth wireless station should be established at Dickson Harbor at the mouth of the Yenisei. He advised the Russian Government to

explore the Kara Sea in all directions during the season of navigation by means of a small fleet of motor sailing vessels which should report by wireless to the radio stations the exact conditions in different parts of the sea. He also advised that aeroplanes be used in connection with the radio stations to explore the surrounding waters.

The Russian Government has decided to create a regular pilot service, to develop the wireless stations and to supplement them by aeroplane and other auxiliary services as recommended by Dr. Nansen. A subsidy will be paid for five years to the firm that sends in the most satisfactory proposal for the establishment of regular steamship traffic between a port on the Baltic and the mouths of the Ob and the Yenisei calling at Hamburg, London and other ports. The line must be run under a Russian flag and preferential rates given to Russian goods. (Condensed from the *London Times*, Russian Supplement, Dec. 15, 1913, p. 11.)

PERSONAL

Professor Cleveland Abbe, the distinguished meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau, celebrated his 75th birthday on Dec. 4.

Professor Charles R. Dryer has retired from the chair of Geography and Geology in the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute after twenty years service. He has changed his domicile to Oak Knoll, Fort Wayne, Ind., but is spending a part of the winter in New York. His successor at Terre Haute is Bernard H. Schockel, M.A., late of Chicago University, who will be glad to receive any communications relating to his department.

Professor Douglas W. Johnson of Columbia University lectured before the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society at the American Museum of Natural History, Jan. 14, on "The Scenery of the Atlantic Coast and Its Answer to the Question: Is the Coast Sinking?" Colored lantern views of all parts of the coast were shown.

GENERAL

Atlas to Illustrate the Forms of Terrestrial Relief. The preparation of this atlas was approved at the Ninth International Geographical Congress in Geneva. A committee was appointed which evolved a plan for carrying it out, found a publisher and also obtained pecuniary aid to produce a specimen number and distribute it among scientific bodies.

At the Tenth Congress in Rome, March 27-April 3, 1913, Professor Emile Chaix of Geneva said that possibly the first series of from forty-five to forty-seven plates would be in the hands of subscribers by the end of 1914. General Schokalsky moved: "The Tenth International Geographical Congress approves of the plan adopted for carrying out the project and the execution of the work so far as it is yet done. It strongly recommends all geographers and all scientific institutions to aid this enterprise in every possible way." The resolution was adopted and was confirmed at the final meeting of the Congress.

The Society has received a letter from Marquis Cappelli, President of the Congress, requesting the geographers of all countries to give every aid in their power to the carrying out of this important work. He bespeaks the suggestions and assistance of geographers and geographical societies.

Warning Ships on their Approach to Icebergs. Before the *Titanic* disaster Prof. H. T. Barnes of McGill University was at work on the problem of warning ships of their approach to icebergs ("Icebergs and Their Location in Navigation," *Annual Report Smithsonian Institution, 1912*, pp. 717-740, Washington, 1913). By his invention of the microthermometer, a self-recording thermometer which measures temperature changes of a tenth of a degree, Barnes has shown definitely that the temperature *rises* as icebergs are approached though it falls rapidly in the immediate neighborhood of the bergs. This has been tested in detailed experiments in the Straits of Belle Isle, in a voyage from the St. Lawrence to Hudson Bay, and in several trips across the Atlantic Ocean. Icebergs eight to twelve miles from the ship affect the microthermometer notably, and within a quarter mile of the berg the rise of temperature is very sharp indeed.

LAWRENCE MARTIN.